

# CALIFORNIA STATE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

GILES S. PORTER, M.D., Director

## Weekly Bulletin



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GUY P. JONES  
EDITOR

## Egg Standardization Law Enforced

A State-wide campaign has been undertaken by the Food and Drug Enforcement Division of the State Department of Public Health in the enforcement of State laws pertaining to the standardization of eggs. Local egg distributors, producers and dealers throughout the State have been instructed relative to the provisions of the law. City and county health officers are assisting in the work and 100,000 copies of an explanatory digest of the law have been distributed. Following the completion of this educational program a rigid campaign of enforcement will be carried on.

The law is designed to establish standards by which the consumer can purchase eggs and be certain of their quality and size. Terms such as "specials," "extras" and "standards" have been defined as quality specifications; and weight specifications are quoted in the use of such terms as "large," "medium" or "small," as well as for designating the size of eggs. The housewife who purchases "large specials" will know that she is getting eggs of the highest grades, both as to quality and size. If she buys "medium specials" she will receive eggs of the highest quality but of a smaller size. Under the law all eggs sold to the consumer must be properly labeled as to size and quality by placard or otherwise, and the terms such as "ranch eggs," "farm eggs," etc., can not be used unless the eggs are of the grade of large extras, or better. This law applies to proprietors of roadside stands, as well as to proprietors of groceries and markets. All viola-

tions of this law will be referred to district attorneys for prosecution.

Following is a digest of Chapter 434, Act of 1931, which has been distributed widely throughout the State:

### EGG STANDARDS

[A digest of Chapter 434, Statutes 1931]

All eggs must be candled to meet requirements. Candling means the practice of examining the interior of an egg by the use of transmitted light.

A candling certificate or invoice must be kept on file by the retailer or manufacturer at his place of business. This is your only protection.

All eggs must be labeled or a sign must be displayed as to size and quality.

Cold storage eggs can not be labeled or sold as fresh eggs.

Terms "Eggs," "Ranch Eggs," "Farm Eggs," or any other similar terms must be the grade of large extras or better. If of a lower grade or smaller size, they must be labeled as to the correct quality and size in accordance with quality and weight specification.

Dirty eggs must be labeled as such, also as to size and quality.

Checked or broken eggs must be labeled as such, also as to size or weight.

### QUALITY SPECIFICATIONS

1. Specials. Eggs uniform in size; reasonably clean and sound; air cell localized and not over three-sixteenths of an inch in depth; clear, firm whites; no visible germ development; may contain not more than two eggs per dozen of the grade of "Extras."
2. Extras. Eggs uniform in size; reasonably clean and sound; air cell localized and not over one-fourth of an inch in depth; clear, firm whites; no visible germ development; may contain not more than two eggs per dozen of the grade of "Standards."
3. Standards. Eggs uniform in size; reasonably clean and sound; air cell may be slightly tremulous, but not exceed three-eighths of an inch in depth. The germ development may be slightly visible.



4. Trades. Shall apply to all edible eggs falling below the quality specifications for "Standards." No eggs below quality of "Standards" shall be sold to a consumer.

#### WEIGHT SPECIFICATIONS

1. Large eggs. Shall weigh not less than one and five-sixths ounces each and shall average not less than twenty-three and one-half ounces per dozen.
2. Medium eggs. Shall weigh not less than one and seven-twelfths ounces each and shall average not less than twenty ounces per dozen.
3. Small eggs. Shall weigh not less than one and one-fourth ounces each and shall average not less than sixteen ounces per dozen.
4. Peewee eggs. Shall include all eggs weighing less than one and one-fourth ounces each.

Exception.—Eggs sold on the producer's premises to a consumer for human consumption without solicitation. If eggs are displayed or eggs are advertised for sale by sign or otherwise, all requirements of the law must be complied with.

Violation of this act is a misdemeanor, punishable by fine.

For the full text of Egg Standardization Act, see Chapter 434, page 988, Statutes 1931.

#### WHAT ABOUT INFLUENZA?

Since the pandemic of influenza in 1918-1919, the trend of this disease has been watched very carefully. There were more than 800 deaths from influenza registered in California last year. There is a possibility that some of these were cases of pneumonia but there may be significance in the fact that so many deaths were registered as due to this cause during a year in which the disease could not be rated as present in epidemic form.

Health officers who have been watching the State morbidity returns carefully during recent weeks have noted the occurrence of a gradual increase in the numbers of cases reported. Reports of rather sharp outbreaks recently in jails and institutions have been made. Groups of cases have also been reported in labor camps in California. Whenever widespread epidemics of this disease have occurred during winter months, outbreaks in institutions and among selected groups have been recorded during the late summer and early fall. Whether the trend of influenza at the present time forbodes the appearance of an extensive epidemic during the winter months is not known definitely. It must be admitted, however, that there is considerable significance in the present status of influenza in California. Health officers are urged to watch the trend of this disease very carefully and to secure reports of all cases that may occur in their respective communities. No advances have been made recently in the control of this disease; it is highly important, however, that every possible effort be made to keep it in check. Of first importance is the thorough reporting of cases.

The methods of quackery are merely a theft from the most ancient phases of folk-medicine.—Sudhoff.

#### IMPERIAL COUNTY MAKES HEALTH RECORD

Dr. Warren F. Fox, Health Officer of Imperial County, has issued the second annual report of the Imperial County Health Department since it was inaugurated as a full-time health unit July 1, 1930. The report is most complete and covers a description of the territory served, population, health department expenditures with an analysis of such expenditures, and a report of a survey covering the public health needs of the county.

Among the divisions of the health department for which detailed reports are given are vital statistics, school hygiene, with particular reference to the discovery and correction of physical defects, immunization against the various communicable diseases, the incidence of communicable diseases, health education, child hygiene, public health nursing, dental hygiene, inspection service, including sanitary inspection and milk inspection, and the laboratory division.

Although Imperial County has operated a full-time health unit for a short period of time, the beneficial results that are derived through this service have become apparent. Were it not for a very high automobile death rate, it is probable that the general death rate for Imperial County would compare favorably with that for the State as a whole. It is believed that the proximity to the Mexican border and the long stretches of highway upon which terrific rates of speed can be attained probably account for the local high death rate from automobile accidents. The tuberculosis death rate showed a reduction last year but it is still considerably higher than the similar rate for the State. The incidence of diphtheria and the death rate from this disease were reduced considerably during the year. Immunization against this disease was offered freely and the beneficial results are becoming evident. The cancer death rate and the maternal death rate for Imperial County are both much lower than the State death rates for these conditions. The infant mortality rate, on the other hand, is exceedingly high, due to the large number of deaths among Mexican infants.

The report is well arranged and well planned. It consists of more than thirty mimeographed pages. The health officer and the people of Imperial County are to be congratulated upon the excellent results in bettering public health in Imperial County which are recounted in this publication. No county in the State has more acute public health problems than Imperial. The spirit with which the people of this county attack these problems is most commendable. It is encouraging that definite results in better public health conditions are demonstrated.



## HEAVY PUNISHMENT FOR FOOD LAW VIOLATORS

The following article is from the August issue of Western Packer and Canner:

That California is very much in earnest about the enforcement of the food and drug laws is evidenced by the fact that in a general cleanup of preserving conditions in southern California a fine of \$5,000 was imposed last month, the heaviest penalty in the history of either State or national food and drugs acts.

After a survey of conditions extending over a period of nearly a year, in which attempts were made to straighten out a number of offenders by educational means, the seizure law was invoked and seven complaints obtained. At the time of going to press two convictions had been made, another defendant was out on bail and the other cases were on the court calendar for immediate attention.

The \$5,000 fine was imposed on the Dixie Products Company, operated by Lillian Armstrong and Mary Settles. Of this amount, the defendants paid \$1,000 and the remainder was suspended for a period of one year. The Globe Preserving Company was fined \$850, and P. G. Rogers of the Rite Taste Products was put in jail and then released on \$1,750 bail pending trial. A considerable quantity of preserves was seized in each instance on court order.

Investigation and prosecution was carried on by Milton P. Duffy, who was made chief of food and drug enforcement for the State Department of Public Health several months ago in addition to his duties as chief cannery inspector. He acted under the direction of Dr. Giles S. Porter, director of the department.

Artificial coloring, added pectin, added citric acid and deficiency in fruit were some of the charges made by Mr. Duffy against the offenders, and testimony showed that in some instances strawberry jam had been made from Satsuma plums and pectin, glucose had been used for sugar and pectin for fruit. Peach jam containing only 10 to 15 per cent of peaches was another sample of the way the law was being violated by one offender, according to Mr. Duffy.

In his investigation Mr. Duffy had the cooperation of legitimate manufacturers of preserves but the defendants did not respond to persuasion or warning that the law was being violated, and legal action finally followed. In the peach jam case Mr. Duffy called the attention of the court to the fact that 100,000 tons of peaches were going to waste in California this year, yet the preserver in question was making a so-called peach jam practically without peaches.

"This is a drive to see that the consumer gets what he is paying for," said Mr. Duffy. "And also to see

that the industry is stabilized so the legitimate manufacturer can be protected."

Some of the legitimate factors in the industry point out that under present fruit prices, particularly peaches, apricots, plums, figs and quinces, adulteration is more expensive than using pure fruit. For example, figuring the cost of pectin at \$1.20 a pound, which is sufficient to jell 100 pounds of sugar, the cost of pectin for one pound of sugar is  $1\frac{1}{2}$  cents, while the price of many fruits is less than 1 cent a pound. Where strawberries had been bought at 4 cents a pound the saving on a dozen one-pound jars might amount to 27 cents—but it would take a tremendous amount of such savings to make up the fine for violating the law levied by the Los Angeles County Superior Court.

The State Department of Public Health is offering the preserving industry a service never before rendered in giving information as to preservers' rights and obligations under the law, and Mr. Duffy suggests that before labels are printed or new products manufactured the manufacturers call on the department for advice. The Food and Drug Enforcement Bureau has its headquarters at 357 State Building, San Francisco, with branches at 703 California State Building, Los Angeles, and the State Office Building, Sacramento.

## ENCEPHALO-MYELITIS REPORTED

Last month a veterinarian in Madera County was reported ill with encephalitis. For several weeks prior to the onset of his illness he had treated horses which were suffering from encephalo-myelitis. It would seem possible that he contracted his infection from the sick horses.

During the past year, two other such cases have been reported in California. Both of them were in individuals who had attended horses which were suffering from this infection. Epidemics of various diseases occur frequently among horses and many years ago, when horses were present in great numbers and were used more commonly, such epidemics were widespread. In the seventies and eighties it was believed that epidemics of certain diseases among horses bore a relationship to epidemics of influenza in the human population. There is little or no evidence to support this contention at the present time. It would seem possible, however, for certain diseases which occur among horses to be contracted by human beings who may come into close contact with sick animals.

A sick individual, community, town or city behaves, in general, the same way.



### LABORATORIES RECEIVE APPROVAL

During July, Dr. W. H. Kellogg, Chief of the Division of Laboratories of the California Department of Public Health, made a tour of inspection covering approved laboratories in San Diego, Orange, Los Angeles, Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo counties. The laboratory at the Orange County Hospital and that at the San Bernardino County Hospital were inspected and recommended for approval. Meetings were held with local groups of pathologists in San Diego and Los Angeles counties. Subjects of importance and of general interest were discussed at these meetings.

"Poor posture" is a sign that the child needs a careful and complete medical examination to discover the underlying cause of poor posture. The "poor posture," like toothache, is really nature's warning that something is wrong and the child needs the physician's help to discover what that "something" is and to tell him how to correct it. When the cause is removed or corrected, the poor posture usually disappears. Treat the child, not the posture.

Some of the grotesque attitudes in which children sit or lie, have a real purpose back of them, for they relax the child's tired muscles and let him "rest up" most quickly.—LeRoy A. Wilkes, M.D.

### MORBIDITY \*

#### Diphtheria.

27 cases of diphtheria have been reported. Those communities reporting 10 or more cases are as follows: Los Angeles 14.

#### Measles.

24 cases of measles have been reported. Those communities reporting 10 or more cases are as follows: Los Angeles 10.

#### Scarlet Fever.

42 cases of scarlet fever have been reported. Those communities reporting 10 or more cases are as follows: Los Angeles 12.

#### Whooping Cough.

195 cases of whooping cough have been reported. Those communities reporting 10 or more cases are as follows: Berkeley 12, Oakland 14, Los Angeles County 19, Los Angeles 63, Pasadena 16, San Diego 21.

#### Smallpox.

5 cases of smallpox have been reported, as follows: Los Angeles 4, Hawthorne 1.

\* From reports received on August 22d and 23d for week ending August 20th.

#### Typhoid Fever.

12 cases of typhoid fever have been reported, as follows: Emeryville 1, Westmoreland 1, Hanford 1, Los Angeles County 1, Los Angeles 1, Riverside County 1, San Francisco 2, Solano County 2, Sutter County 1, California 1.\*\*

#### Meningitis (Epidemic).

1 case of epidemic meningitis from San Francisco has been reported.

#### Leprosy.

1 case of leprosy from San Francisco has been reported.

#### Poliomyelitis.

6 cases of poliomyelitis have been reported, as follows: Kern County 1, Glendale 1, Los Angeles 2, Sierra Madre 1, San Diego 1.

#### Trichinosis.

1 case of trichinosis from Napa has been reported.

#### Jaundice (Epidemic).

2 cases of epidemic jaundice have been reported, as follows: Los Angeles 1, San Francisco 1.

#### Food Poisoning.

2 cases of food poisoning from Humboldt County have been reported.

#### Undulant Fever.

2 cases of undulant fever have been reported, as follows: Kern County 1, Los Angeles 1.

#### Tularemia.

1 case of tularemia from Susanville has been reported.

#### Coccidioidal Granuloma.

1 case of coccidioidal granuloma from San Francisco has been reported.

#### Psittacosis.

One case of psittacosis from Pasadena has been reported.

\*\* Cases charged to "California" represent patients ill before entering the State or those who contracted their illness traveling about the State throughout the incubation period of the disease. These cases are not chargeable to any one locality.

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